
SUBSTITUTE HOUSE BILL 2596

State of Washington

53rd Legislature

1994 Regular Session

By House Committee on State Government (originally sponsored by Representatives Finkbeiner, Orr, Johanson, Eide, Kessler, B. Thomas, Shin, Long, Caver, Bray, Pruitt, Moak, Springer, Cothorn, J. Kohl, L. Johnson and Anderson)

Read first time 02/04/94.

1 AN ACT Relating to state government; adding a new section to
2 chapter 44.04 RCW; and creating new sections.

3 BE IT ENACTED BY THE LEGISLATURE OF THE STATE OF WASHINGTON:

4 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 1.** The legislature finds that it should always
5 work toward the goal of providing citizens free, open, and direct
6 access to legislative information and should explore diverse methods
7 for meeting that goal. The legislature finds and declares that it is
8 now possible and feasible in this electronic age to more widely
9 distribute legislative information by way of electronic communication
10 in order to better inform the public of the matters pending before the
11 legislature and its proceedings. The legislature further finds that it
12 is desirable to make information regarding these matters and
13 proceedings available to the citizens of this state, irrespective of
14 where they reside, in a timely manner and for the least possible cost.

15 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 2.** A new section is added to chapter 44.04 RCW
16 to read as follows:

17 (1) The joint legislative service center shall make all of the
18 following information available to the public in electronic form:

1 (a) The legislative calendar, the schedule of legislative committee
2 hearings, a list of matters pending on the floors of both houses of the
3 legislature, and a list of the committees of the legislature and their
4 members;

5 (b) The text of each bill introduced in each current legislative
6 session, including each amended, enrolled, and session law form of each
7 bill;

8 (c) The legislative history of each bill introduced and amended in
9 each current legislative session;

10 (d) The bill status of each bill introduced and amended in each
11 current legislative session;

12 (e) All bill reports prepared by legislative committees in
13 connection with each bill in each current legislative session;

14 (f) All vote information concerning each bill in each current
15 legislative session;

16 (g) Any veto message concerning a bill in each current legislative
17 session;

18 (h) The Washington State Constitution; and

19 (i) All session laws enacted on or after January 1, 1994.

20 (2) The information identified in subsection (1) of this section
21 shall be made available to the public by making it accessible through
22 nonproprietary, nonprofit cooperative public computer networks. The
23 information shall be made available in a format and by a means that
24 provides the greatest feasible access to the general public in this
25 state. Any person who accesses the information may access all or any
26 part of the information. The information may also be made available by
27 any other means of access that would facilitate public access to the
28 information. The information that is maintained in the legislative
29 information system that is operated and maintained by the legislature
30 shall be made available in the shortest feasible time after the
31 information is available in the information system. The information
32 that is not maintained in the information system shall be made
33 available in the shortest feasible time after it is available to the
34 chief clerk of the house of representatives and the secretary of the
35 senate.

36 (3) Personal information concerning a person who accesses the
37 information may be maintained only for the purpose of providing service
38 to the person.

1 (4) The state may not impose a fee or other charge as a condition
2 of accessing the information identified in subsection (1) of this
3 section.

4 (5) The electronic public access provided by this section is in
5 addition to other electronic or print distribution of the information.

6 NEW SECTION. **Sec. 3.** The joint legislative systems committee
7 shall ensure the prompt implementation of section 2 of this act by the
8 joint legislative service center and shall report on the status of such
9 implementation to the speaker of the house, the president of the
10 senate, and appropriate legislative committees by October 1, 1994.

--- END ---